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FLASHBACK

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CONTENTS

The Squire of Gayeta Remembered 1
Remembered Happiness 10
The Guest Book 19
Dolly S. Bentley Photos 20
My Dear Vance Randolph 24
Attention Writers! 25
Excerpts From Letters 26
Naming of Fayetteville's Streets — Part III 28
Genealogy Chart — Browne Family 34
Queries 39

FEBRUARY, 1981

Washington County Historical Society, Publisher

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 1

FLASHBACK

Flashback is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. All material being submitted for publication should be sent to the editor at 30 S. College Ave., Fayetteville AR 72701. No payment is made for the articles published in **Flashback.**

Membership in this Society is open to anyone interested in the collection and preservation of Washington County history.

Dues are payable on a calendar basis, and are $6.00 annually. Single numbers of the **Flashback** (back or current issues) are $2.00 each.

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The Squire of Gayeta Remembered

by Mary Ann Spain*

Charles Joseph Finger (December 25, 1869 - January 7, 1941), one of Fayetteville's best remembered authors and editors, won recognition for his stories of adventure and for his autobiography, *Seven Horizons,* published in 1930. He wrote over thirty-five books, numerous articles, editorials, book reviews, and short stories from his Fayetteville home, Gayeta Lodge. In 1924, Finger won the Newbery Medal for literature for *Tales From Silver Lands* and, in 1929, the Longmans Green Juvenile Fiction Prize for *Courageous Companions.* He was editor of two literary magazines and wrote for the Federal Writer's Project of the W.P.A.[1]

John Gould Fletcher was the first to refer to Finger as the "Squire of Gayeta Lodge"; the name stuck. Fletcher stayed the weekend at Gayeta, at Finger's invitation, after a speaking engagement at the University of Arkansas in 1927.[2] Fletcher later stated he accepted Finger's original invitation out of curiosity. He wondered how an Englishman could write international adventure stories in the Ozark Mountains, and he expected to find an idealistic young man. Instead he found a fifty-two year old rugged individualist. Fletcher's description of Finger reads:

> *A big, thickset man of two hundred pounds with a broad face and large head. He had definite Irish characteristics with a wide humorous mouth. He had small pale blue eyes and two masses of curly, unruly hair on each side of his bald forehead.*[3]

Fletcher described Finger poetically as a man who might have been mistaken for an English yeoman farmer rather than the man associated with the name he first heard in England in 1923. That was the year Edward O'Brien printed a short story by the Ozark Englishman, "The Lizard God." Fletcher also heard, before meeting Finger, that H.L. Mencken was helping the Fayetteville author establish a reputation in the pages of *The American Mercury.*[4] As a result of mutual admiration, the Fletcher-Finger relationship was a deep enduring one from the time of their first meeting.

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*Mary Ann Spain is a doctoral student in the History Department at the University of Arkansas. She researched and wrote this paper exclusively for *Flashback.*

How the middle-aged Englishman found his way to the Ozarks is a story that begins in Europe and embraces three continents. Charles Joseph Finger was born in Willesden, England, the oldest of six children.[5] His father was a German tailor and his mother was Irish. Finger's early life after the family moved to London, and the influences of the city and the time, are vividly described in *Seven Horizons*, written when he was well past middle age.

Finger's descriptions are distinguished by his eloquent critical style and the identification of many of England's social problems. The Finger family's class-conscious life style instilled in Charles a keen social awareness and a disdain for the status quo.

Finger described his parents' expectations of class respectability as ranging from Fauntleroy velvet suits for their son, to Victorian ornate household furnishings, all designed for the "uncomfortable rules of life, an atmosphere that excluded pleasure."[6] Finger also remembered a Victorian value system that sought to protect the children's environment by screening out undesirable elements: bad language, sex, nudity, lower-class behavior, violence, and certain types of literature. In this overprotected atmosphere, the unknown seemed mysterious and the experiences taboo for children became, for Finger, adventures.

The family's library consisted of expensively bound and lavishly illustrated books,

> *mostly historical and purchased in monthly installments, to be put aside for binding, therefore they could not be read until bound, and when bound turned out to be too precious for frequent handling. Yet literature took no special significance for any of the family ... sometimes my mother stumbled on something such as Mark Twain's "Jumping Frog," but for the most part that which my parents read was ephemeral stuff, the sentimental largely favored.*[7]

In rebellion against these Victorian constraints, Finger, around the age of ten, began to sneak downstairs to the servants' quarters and out to the mysterious Curzon Street on London's West Side. In the servants' quarters he discovered the forbidden adventure literature so popular with the lower classes. In Curzon Street he had his first real life adventure in a hostile encounter with a boy whose face was smeared with soot.

The stories and books gave young Charles a thirst for the unusual and a wanderlust for far-away places. He bought and read as many books as he could in his youth, adventure literature ranging from the *Dick Turpin Stories* to Ambrose Bierce's *The Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*.[8]

Finger's education beyond the adventure stories included attendance at several small private academies in England.[9] He attended King's College in England and went to Frankfort in Germany to study

music.[10] His formal education was cut short by the European economic conditions of the 1880's. Later, in the United States, he received an honorary Doctor of Literature Degree from Knox College and an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Arkansas in 1931.[11]

As Finger matured, his love of literature increased and he became even more mindful of the complexity of nineteenth century European economic and social problems. He began to read and collect material from a broader spectrum, including Henry George's *Progress and Poverty,* Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* and Ignatius Donnelly's science fiction periodical, *Caesar's Column.*[12] The bulk of his twelve six-foot shelves of periodicals, pamphlets, and books covered topics from communism to vegetarianism and "books about utopia are hard pressed on one another."[13]

As a young man Charles Finger flirted with several popular "ism" philosophies, but reached adulthood rejecting political activism, including the socialism of many of his friends.[14] Among the early socialist Fabian Society members who corresponded with Finger were Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) and Sidney and Beatrice Webb (1859-1947, 1858-1943).[15]

His most immediate literary and intellectual friends were Sir R.C. Cunninghame-Graham, W.H. Hudson, H.G. Wells, E. Belfort Bax, and William Morris,[16] all of whom continued the friendships through their lifetimes and influenced Finger throughout his own.

In 1890 economic conditions and political conditions in Europe led Charles to the decision to emigrate. He chose South America after reading Jules Verne's *Voyages Round the World in Search of a Castaway,* a story of a shipwrecked Englishman's journey across Patagonia.[17] The adventure and freedom associated with the story led Finger to comment in unabashed idealism,

> *Suddenly everything grouped itself around the fact that down there I could find a piece of land, free and generous land that I could utilize and on which I could live though the entire human race should perish because of its soulless stupidity ... I would learn to live, would build myself, would go forward.*[18]

Finger and two friends ended up jumping ship along the South American coast and made their way inland. Charles found his Patagonia and stayed there from 1890 to 1894. The frontier environment and social conditions, so different from Victorian England, satisfied much of his lust for adventure. He later wrote of his experiences in *Tales From Silver Lands, Seven Horizons,* and *The Yankee Captain in Patagonia.* He worked odd jobs during those years including tutoring, sheep-herding and gold-mining. He gained knowledge of the geography and the people of the area. They were European frontiersmen, women of the frontier towns, sailors, slave-

Charles Finger as a South American gaucho.

traders, opportunists, and the like. On February 1, 1891, he opened a boliche, a combination of general store and saloon common in frontier South America.[19] In 1893, he was a guide for the Franco-Russian Ornithological Expedition studying the birds of the remoter areas.[20] During his explorations and herding activities he lived much the same life as the traditional gaucho. A photograph from this period shows a handsome and mustachioed Charles Finger beside his horse, both wearing many trappings typical of gauchos, including Spanish riding spurs on his boots and triple layers of blankets to protect the horse.[21]

In 1894 he left Patagonia working on a steamer bound for England. After a few months in London he joined his family in New York where they had relocated during their son's absence. Influenced by American cowboy stories, Finger left New York September 11, 1894 for Texas, where he traveled from Galveston to Dallas and Fort Worth in search of work. He finally found a job in October of that year on a sheep ranch near Knickerbocker.

Between 1897 and 1901, Finger worked as a lumberjack in Canada and went to the Klondike in search of gold. In 1902 he returned to

Texas, settling in San Angelo and again working on a sheep ranch. He attempted to start a music conservatory in San Angelo, investing the money he made in Alaska. The enterprise lasted several months. He also organized and was president of the first chapter of the American Federation of Labor in San Angelo.

On June 7, 1902 at the age of thirty-two, Charles Finger married Eleanor ("Nellie") Ferguson in San Angelo.[22] She was twenty-two, the daughter of a sheep rancher and a friend of one of Finger's music students. Their thirty-nine year marriage was described by others as a very solid one. Eleanor was a hard worker. She produced three good meals a day for her growing family. She did a great deal of canning and was skilled at sewing and mending. She taught her children to appreciate nature, the beauty of flowers, the joys of walking in the woods, and observing birds. She often went outside into the yard at night to observe the heavens. She was a quiet and loving person who balanced the flamboyant personality of her husband.[23]

The children born of this marriage were Hubert, Julia Louise ("Kitty"), Charles J., Helen, and Herbert Eric, subsequently known as the Five Fingers.[24] Family life was to moderate much of Charles Finger's wanderlust, and he found himself leaning more towards his parents' Victorian values of hard work, dependability, and respectability when it came to bringing up his own children.[25]

During the first years of their family life Finger worked as a boilermaker and foreman for several West Coast railroads. In 1905 he went to Chicago seeking a white collar job and soon became auditor for the Ohio River and Columbus Railway Company in Ripley, Ohio. He worked for this railroad the following fifteen years. Hard work and creative responsibility won his recognition with the company; he was promoted to Administrative Vice-President.

The need of a more creative, contemplative, and expressive way of life began to be more and more in his thoughts, in spite of his success in business. In 1916 Finger sent a short story he had written, "The Doit Case", to William Marvin Reedy, editor of the St. Louis based literary magazine *Reedy's Mirror.*[26] Reedy had a wide range of subscribers and a reputation for discovering uniquely talented writers such as Edgar Lee Masters. Reedy encouraged Finger, published his early works, and was the first to suggest he write about his early life experiences.

Between 1916 and 1920 Reedy published several of Finger's stories. The novice writer also contributed book reviews and articles to other magazines including *The Nation, The New Republic* and *The American Mercury.* In 1920 Reedy became ill and asked Finger to take over the editorship of the Mirror until he regained his health. Two months later Reedy died in San Francisco and his widow discontinued the publication.

With this break in their father's writing career, the Finger family

decided to leave Ohio and try a utopian life on a farm in some less settled area of the country. Charles Finger chose Fayetteville, Arkansas, because of its scenic Ozark beauty, warmer climate, and university town atmosphere.[27] Finger and his father-in-law bought a good-sized acreage three miles west of town and in early 1920 the family moved. Grandfather Ferguson eventually went back to Texas, leaving Finger and his son Hubert to develop the farm into a financially secure operation.

The farm also became a haven and place of work for a family with diverse creative interests. The Fingers built a spacious white frame house named Gayeta Lodge,[28] near a fine post-Civil War barn made sturdy with hand-hewn beams and square nails. These buildings and several outbuildings were surrounded by woodland and cleared fields bordered with limestone walls. The acreage was dotted with elm, oak, and cedar trees. The Fingers planted large vegetable and flower gardens. In the spring, wild prairie flowers were abundant, especially white digitalis, penstemon, and daisies.[29]

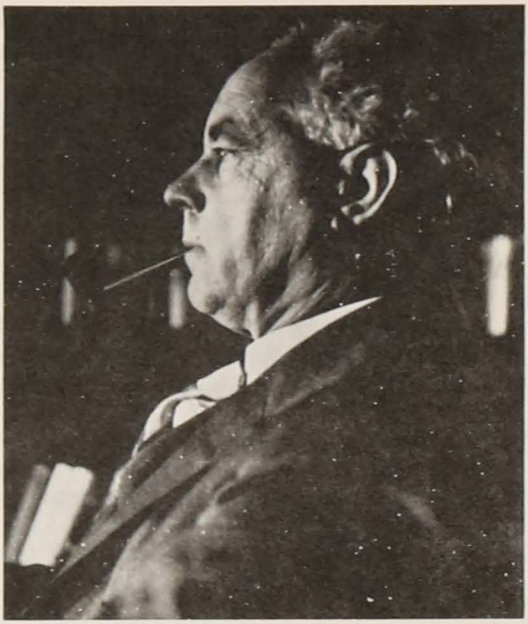
Gayeta produced an atmosphere in which the elder Finger could devote the majority of his time to writing and intellectual pursuits. He did not do his serious writing in the lodge, but used a small outbuilding as a studio-office.[30] His manuscripts were written on an antiquated Fox typewriter.[31]

William S. Campbell, in his history of Fayetteville, wrote that Finger was often seen walking into town where he made friends with the local folk.[32] Many times he invited them home for drinks and intellectual discussions. Included were personalities such as the writer, Charles Morrow Wilson and the photographer, J.H. Field. Field often used Gayeta and its residents in his artistic landscape and portrait photography. One of the most frequent visitors was the scholar John T. Appleby, who dedicated his travel book, *Suffolk Summer,* to Finger.[33] University favorites included Murray Sheehan, professor of journalism and author of the 1927 novel set in Fayetteville, *Half Gods,*[34] Julian Waterman, later Dean of the Law School, Henry D. Tovey of the Music Department, William Baerg, professor of Entomology, and Virgil Jones, Dean of Arts and Sciences.

Finger built floor to ceiling bookshelves around his entire living room. There he kept rare and favorite books from which he frequently read aloud to family and friends. From 1920 to 1940, this room and Gayeta's grounds became an Ozarkian lyceum for young writers in the area. Some of them helped Finger publish his own literary magazine, *All's Well,* based on the *Reedy's Mirror* format, and produced in Fayetteville from 1920 until 1935. In the 1930's, the prolific Finger chaired the Arkansas Federal Writers Project to produce *Arkansas, A Guide to the State.* He collected Ozark folklore, and recorded Ozark and Western songs for the Library of Congress. He

wrote over forty *Little Blue Books* on various subjects for the Haldeman-Julius Company of Girard, Kansas.

Charles Finger's wanderlust in later life was eased by frequent business trips to the East Coast; in 1930 he took his daughters to the British Isles to meet his childhood and literary friends.



The Squire of Gayeta Photo by Robert Davis

In the late 1930's, with the approaching European disturbances on his mind, Finger wrote his longtime Arkansas friend, John Gould Fletcher, about his disdain for growing European disorder. He remarked that he had once heard William Morris say, "When socialism comes it may be in such a form that we don't like it."[35] His concern with historical causation produced another book for young people, *When Guns Thundered at Tripoli*, published in 1937.

During the late summer of 1940, Helen Finger wrote Charlie May Simon (Mrs. John Gould Fletcher) that her father's health was failing and he had been depressed over the London bombings.[36] By January, the Squire of Gayetta Lodge was dead of a heart attack complicated by pneumonia.

Charles J. Finger possessed a beautiful imagination and expressed it well with his creative talents. He loved the Ozarks and its people as he loved the different areas of the world that touched his early life. He was a good writer, worker, teacher, scholar, husband and father — a personality well worth remembering in the annals of Washington County history.

Editor's Note: Gayeta is no longer owned by the Finger family, but the house and outbuildings are still to be found on Finger Lane off Highway 62 West near Fayetteville. The original research for this article by Mary Ann Spain utilized papers of Charles J. Finger in Special Collections, University of Arkansas Library, and family papers in the possession of Helen Finger Leflar, as well as published works by and about Finger. *Flashback* wishes to publicly thank Helen Leflar for her artistic contributions to past issues and for her help, and the help of her family and friends, in compiling this issue.

FOOTNOTES:

1. I am indebted to Wendy (McElheny) Taylor, who helped with the initial stages of this paper. Her works on Charles J. Finger are the most exhaustive to date. They are Wendy T. McElheny, "Charles J. Finger: The Long Preparation, 1867-1920" (unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Arkansas, 1978) and Wendy T. McElheny, "A Rare Ceremonial: The Life of Charles J. Finger, 1867-1941," in Arkansas Lives Series, *Arkansas Libraries*, June, 1978, p. 15-22.
2. John Gould Fletcher was a Pulitzer Prize winning author and poet from Little Rock, Arkansas. His works include *Arkansas*, *Life Is My Song*, *South Star*, and *Preludes and Symphonies*.
3. "The Squire of Gayeta Lodge," *Saturday Review of Literature*, 12 July, 1941, p. 3-4.
4. Ibid.
5. *Current Biography*, 1941 ed., "Charles Joseph Finger," p. 278.
6. Charles J. Finger, *Seven Horizons* (New York: Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., 1930), pp. 4-5.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid, p. 29.
9. McElheny, "Charles J. Finger: The Long Preparation," p. 5.
10. "John W. Gunn Visits Charles J. Finger In His Arkansas Home," *Life and Letters*, E. Haldeman-Julius, ed., May 1923, p. 3.
11. *New York Times*, 8 January, 1941, p. 19. (Finger's obituary)
12. *Seven Horizons*, p. 209.
13. Ibid.
14. Finger was present at the Trafalgar Square riots on November 13, 1887. His violent experience there led him to be disillusioned with what he considered rapid social change ideologies. *Seven Horizons*, pp. 184-190.
15. McElheny, "A Rare Ceremonial," p. 17.
16. John T. Appleby, "Charles J. Finger: An Appreciation," *Washington Post*, 2 February 1941, p. 8.
17. In the 1890's Patagonia was a vast undeveloped frontier region extending for miles into the interior of the present boundaries of Argentina and Chile.
18. *Seven Horizons*, p. 208.
19. McElheny, "A Rare Ceremonial," p. 18.
20. Ibid.
21. *Seven Horizons*, p. 312.
22. *Current Biography*, 1941, p. 278.
23. Julia L. Helbling to Marguerite Gilstrap, 10 January 1980. Personal letter.
24. Hubert Finger died in 1972 of a heart attack; Julia Finger Helbling presently lives in Springfield, Missouri; Charles Finger in Little Rock, Arkansas; Helen Finger Leflar in Fayetteville, Arkansasa; and Herbert Finger in Dallas, Texas.
25. Helen Finger Leflar, interview held in Fayetteville, Arkansas, November, 1980.
26. McElheny, "The Long Preparation," pp. 63-64.
27. Leflar interview, November, 1980.
28. The name Gayeta is probably derived from the Spanish term *galleta* meaning cracker or biscuit in some parts of South America. According to Helen Finger Leflar, the term signified hospitality for her father because biscuits would be thrown from the ship to awating natives along the coast to insure a friendly landing.
29. "Squire of Gayeta Lodge," p. 4.
30. "John W. Gunn Visits Charles J. Finger -," p. 3 and Leflar interview.

31. Ibid.
32. *One Hundred Years of Fayetteville, 1828-1928.* Reprint, Washington County Historical Society, 1977, pp 108-110.
33. John Tate Appleby (1907-) is the author of several works on medieval history including *John, King of England* and *England Without Richard.*
34. Robert A. Leflar, *The First 100 Years: A Centennial History of the University of Arkansas* (New York: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1972), pp. 135-136.
35. "Squire of Gayeta Lodge," p. 4.
36. Ibid.

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by Wendy (McElheny) Taylor*

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(Cont'd. on pg. 33)

To Remembered Happiness

by Marguerite Gilstrap*

The 1935 November-December issue of *All's Well* was the final one of what Lewis Gannett, literary editor of the *New York Herald Tribune,* described as "C.J. Finger's occasional message to his friends, published casually and occasionally at Fayetteville."

The opening piece was entitled "A Play." During the coming year the scene it described would become well known to me: "A large room pleasant with soft candlelight with dancing shadows cast by blazing logs in a wide fireplace."

In the months ahead I would see, "seated about a table... guests, men and women of prestige and renown in some cases, of quiet and humble circumstances in others."

The host, the Squire of Gayeta Lodge, described himself as portly, furrowed and in his middle sixties. He speaks, "Fill your glasses! I give you a toast. To Remembered Happiness."

A long toast ended with "Salute then, the old heart who has fought the fight! Salute too the fighter! But salute, again, and thrice salute the young, who are about to enter the brave battle!"

Though I had been out of the University five years and was then working as assistant editor of *The Progressive Star,* a weekly newspaper in Fayetteville, I still considered myself among the young, the brave battle before me, my visits to Gayeta Lodge an introduction to the literary world.

When we were in the University, the would-be writers who found inspiration and special welcome to Gayeta were the young men — Charles Morrow Wilson, Cecil Shuford, Jack Appleby, Vincent Ripley and others. Then it became the women's turn because there was a young professional woman in the household, an artist — Helen Finger, in her early twenties, small, slender, with laughing dark eyes and dark hair. She had come home from art school, set up her studio, and was getting commissions to illustrate books.

In 1936 I kept a daybook with brief notes on what I was doing, reading, thinking. References to visits to Gayeta bring happy memories. They began January 11 when I went with three long-time friends, Mary Ripley and Alletah Dickerson, then English teachers at Fayetteville High School, and Doris Drake Leflar, an artist. That cold evening we sat by the blazing fire in the book-lined room. Mrs.

Author Note: Marguerite Gilstrap is also the author of *Our Gilstrap Grandparents,* the chronicle of her well-known St. Paul, Arkansas, family. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Finger, tall, slender, her peach glow complexion framed by prematurely white hair, was a serene presence as she sat near the lamp with her needlework.

The Squire led the talk on art, the trend of the human race, and the pleasures of the treasured port we sipped as we talked. He described the world he would like to live in, the world he lived in, 'Utopia — Made to Suit" in *The Nation*, June 27, 1928.

> *It was symbolized by the house flag — a white arrowhead on a field of blue — a design I used years ago on my horse brand. Aflutter it may be said to indicate a sort of easy adaptability, a kind of buoyancy and freedom of expression. It means effort ceaselessly renewed... a mood vigorous and adventurous.*

He then told how he had started anew at age fifty in the Ozarks where he and Mrs. Finger brought their five children to a place "where each member of the family would have an opportunity to develop individually." He sought

> *a world in which there could be no suppression of opinion and in which thinking aloud was possible, even though it might mean high controversy at table... a world in which there existed no fear of that specter criticism by people of other ways and customs... in that new made world, independent verification had to take precedence over authority, and theories of philosophy and religion had to be accepted or rejected according to individual experience... in this new world minds could not pretend to be unconscious of the fact that mankind was possessed of clamorous passions and... prudishness and hypocrisy were very nearly synonymous.*

Of friendship, he said, "True sociability necessarily includes a measure of seclusion and privacy and discipline of self is ten thousand times better than discipline by set rules and regulations."

We listened with interest and respect and agreed.

Treasured port and other wines were new to us. Arkansas had been dry long before the 18th Amendment brought prohibition to the rest of the country. Its repeal in 1933 permitted the first liquor stores in Fayetteville we had ever seen.

March 11, Mr. Finger invited us to Gayeta to read the essays he was screening as one of the judges of a contest held each year by *Scholastic*, a national weekly for high school classes in English, history, and other subjects. The editorial offices were in New York. Another of the judges was Irita Van Doren, book editor of the *Herald Tribune*. Prizes ranging from five dollars to fifty dollars, fifteen in all, were offered for the best essays. Those we read were neatly and legibly written in pen and ink.

Vincent and Kate Ripley, who had helped the Squire before, were with Mary, Alletah and me. Mr. Finger gave each of us four essays to

read and then exchange. We sat by the big table and read them by the light of oil lamps.

All of us were touched by "A Sharecropper's Boy," written by a black student, but every essay was well done and we finally agreed that "Wendy," a character sketch, should have first place among those we judged.

Later that week W.J. Lemke invited me to the luncheon for the annual state high school press meet at the Legion Grill. C.J. Finger was the speaker. His brief was that newspapers lacked originality.

On Sunday, April 5, William Rose Benet, poet, critic, and cofounder in 1924 of the *Saturday Review of Literature* (as it was first called), gave a lecture at the University. I thought he was best when he read his poems, "The Falconer of God," "Jesse James," and "Daughters." Afterwards we were invited to bring him to Gayeta. He was a tall, thin man of fifty. As we drove out to Gayeta, he told us he was very much impressed with the splendid clean newness of Tulsa. We talked about the poets and novelists we were reading. Two he held in esteem among his contemporaries were Archibald MacLeish and Padriac Colum. When he heard I was a reporter, he said he disliked *The New York Times* because the paper was reactionary. He laughed as he told us about the timid people who placed personals in *The Saturday Review* seeking friends, companions, mates. He was amused at their shyness and embarassment when they came to the office for their mail. A few weeks after he was in Fayetteville, he told of his visit to Gayeta in his column, "The Phoenix Nest," and said when he asked Helen about brothers and sisters, she told him there were five Fingers, of course.

We went to Gayeta on April 24 to ask the Squire if he would review F.A. Swinnerton's *The Georgian Scene,* my book for Modern Literature Club. I had chosen it for the fine portraits, the biographies and sketches of English writers of the last half century. Among them was W.H. Hudson, the novelist and naturalist whose *Argentine Ornithology,* written with Philip L. Sclater, had been a major influence on young C.J. Finger and with whom Finger corresponded until Hudson's death in 1922. Since the Squire was pestered by clubs and was then getting paid for his lectures, he kindly sidestepped my request by writing a letter for me to read with my review.

We had a pleasant April evening. Evelyn, Hubert's wife, was there from Michigan. I could see Hub had found a young woman who would have laughed with him at the "pearly-eyed maidens." Kitty, my journalism classmate and friend, had told me how Hub and Felix Hebling, her beau, talked about the "pearly-eyed maidens" who came to the University Library and took endless time to repair the makeup that had obviously taken much time and care before they left home. That evening we sat around the fire and the Squire read to us. We were invited to come back later in the week and hear Jimmie O'Neill read

Robert Burns. He was a friend the Squire had known in the Argentine, had found in Arkansas years later, and who always came to Gayeta at sheep-shearing time. He read Burns with a fine Scottish burr.

A book that gave us enormous pleasure that spring was *Honey In The Horn,* a folk-tale novel about the adventures of a lad in Oregon at the close of homesteading in 1906-8. It had won the author, H.L. Davis, the Harper's Biennial prize. One morning the *Arkansas Gazette* had an interview with Davis and a picture of him and his wife. They were traveling through Arkansas. That very evening a friend and I, on the way to a movie, saw them, introduced ourselves, visited a bit, learned they wanted to meet the Squire, and offered to take them to Gayeta. Perhaps it was just as well a roadblock sent us back to town. We had not checked with the Fingers to see if they were home or would welcome visitors. They had no phone. The Davises stayed in town several days, met members of the English Department at the University and were entertained. When I saw them at a folk festival in Tahlequah, they were on their way west and told me they had a pleasant Sunday at Gayeta. A day or so later I had a note from the Squire thanking me for sending them.

When we drove out to Gayeta on June 14, we found Charles Morrow Wilson there. In 1927, the year after he graduated from the University, he began his writing and editing career as associate editor of *All's Well.* Now he lived in New York, was special assistant to the executive vice president of United Fruit, edited agricultural bulletins for the company, and did free-lance writing as well. I was selling a few stories, mostly to *Christian Science Monitor,* and we talked about good subjects for free-lance writers. Good possibilities in Wilson's opinion were the sharecropper situation in eastern Arkansas and, as he said, "the dope on Joe T. Robinson," then majority leader in the U.S. Senate.

In a way these recommendations confirmed the Squire's view that newspapers lacked originality for the press across the country had been sending reporters to the Arkansas delta and carrying stories about the sharecropper situation since 1935 when a little group of desperately poor white and black sharecroppers had organized the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. They had been brutally harrassed. Norman Thomas, the great humanitarian and the 1936 Socialist candidate for president, had been manhandled and forced to leave when he attempted to speak at a meeting at a black church in the little town of Birdsong. I didn't need to go to eastern Arkansas to see what poverty was doing to rural families and observe the misery. We could see it right here in Washington County when the migrant workers came through during berry and fruit season. There were thousands of them just as desperately hungry, ill, and mistreated as the sharecroppers. The only difference was they lacked the spirit and leadership to organize, to protest. Until that happened, the newspapers weren't in-

Starting at left, clockwise around table: Kitty Finger Helbling; Aunt May Ferguson; Margaret German, Charles Finger's secretary; Hubert Finger, oldest son; C.J. Finger; Bill Baerg, who took this photograph by delayed action; Nellie B. Finger; Charles J. Finger, Jr. and Murray Sheehan, head of the University of Arkansas Journalism Department.

---

terested in their story.

Had there been an oracle at Gayeta that evening, we would have learned that Norman Thomas had finally been able to talk with President Roosevelt. Legislation that would lead to the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act early in 1937 was in the planning stage; Senator Robinson, with only a few months to live, would be influential both in the passage of the act and in getting funds authorized for the Farm Security Administration. I would have been thrilled to know I could look forward to writing about a new life for the rural poor and for me, too, when I joined the FSA. But that was six years away.

Squire Finger was enthusiastic about New Deal programs that meant opportunities for people to work. He was particularly pleased to see young musicians and writers he knew getting a chance to use their talents under the Federal Emergency Relief programs and others that followed.

June 25 when we went to Gayeta, we found the Fingers leaving for the movies. They were going to see Charlie Chaplin in "Modern

Times." They invited us back for a picnic on the lawn July 3. That night the Squire cooked steak for us. As Mary recalled it:

> *This required two iron skillets of the same size. Salt was thickly spread on the bottom of one, then the steak placed on top of the salt. Lots of onion was sliced on the top of the steak. The second skillet was fitted over the first in an upside down position. In the meantime, a big hole was dug in the earth and hot coals prepared in the bottom. It was deep enough for the two skillets to be put down in the hole and the skillets covered to hold in the heat.*

The Squire was following the method he described in *Adventures Under Sapphire Skies*. He was a generous host for along with cooking the steak, he entertained us by singing sea chanties.

Sunday, July 26, the Ripleys and I went to Gayeta to sit under the stars and visit. Since we had been so royally entertained, the talk turned to food and I told the Fingers about the Blue Moon cafeteria where many of us ate lunch every day. For twenty five cents we would get well-prepared, adequate servings of fresh food — a meat entrée with two vegetables or one vegetable and a salad, bread and butter, dessert, and coffee. The Squire and Helen accepted my invitation for lunch the following Tuesday. We had fresh trout, breaded and fried. Delicious. The Squire had already shown me how skillfully the Fingers could fillet fish.

On August 28 we were back at Gayeta for a game (croquet?) with Charlie, home from a job, and Gene Geer, a Madison, Wisconsin, newsman who had bought a little place near West Fork and was trying to write a novel about the Ozarks.

When I met Ralph Hudson, a new head of the Art Department at the University, I thought he and Helen should know each other and arranged to take him and Mrs. Hudson to Gayeta. September 28 was a great day for the Fingers. Helen had just received a copy of the book she had illustrated and the Squire's new book, *Dog at His Heel,* had arrived. In 1936 the only bookstore worthy of its name in Fayetteville was Charlie Stone's store at the University. Perhaps that is why the Squire asked me to be his book agent, to sell on commission to those who collected his writings. We made this agreement while visiting with the Hudsons and the Lloyd Henbests of Washington, D.C. I had known Lloyd before he joined the U.S. Geological Survey but was meeting Fannie May, a gifted pianist, for the first time. Her performance that afternoon added to our pleasure.

The boys in the print shop made me some stationery to use in my new book agent enterprise and I showed it to the Fingers when they came by the *Progressive Star* on October 7. Helen gave me a list of people to be circularized when a new book was published.

November 14 Helen and the Squire came back for lunch at the Blue Moon and told me they had invited Adrian Brewer, an artist from Lit-

tle Rock, for that evening. I was to go with him. He had to break the engagement and I invited a new friend, Kay Brumfield, who had come to Fayetteville from New England, to Gayeta.

November 16 the Fingers had a party for Major and Mrs. Maddox and Bob Davis, correspondent for the *New York Sun*, who were traveling west by trailer. Alletah and I went with W.J. Lemke and David Causey, professor of zoology at the University. Alletah remembers Bob Davis as being "knowledgeable without being arrogant, with a natural humor and the look of damaged granite."

Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni was the star that evening. A native of Bologna, Italy, she had come to Fayetteville at the end of World War I as the bride of Professor A. Marinoni. We knew her as an established poet when we were in the University and attended meetings of the poetry club, of which she was co-founder, at her home, Villa Rosa, on Ida Street. I often had occasion to judge her writing because she entered the contests for movie tickets that we ran in the *Saturday Morning Broadcast*. This was an advertising throwaway, the back page filled with ads for shows at William Sonneman's movie houses. Each week I made up the first four lines of a limerick on news of the day. The contestants wrote the fifth line. Few could match Rosa but she had the good taste to limit her entries to one a month.

At Gayeta that evening, Rosa was the center of attention, a beautiful woman of forty five with shining black hair swept back and cut and shaped to her head, ivory skin, large dramatic dark eyes, an expressive way of tossing her head, and a fund of quips and stories that held us and Signore Marinoni spellbound.

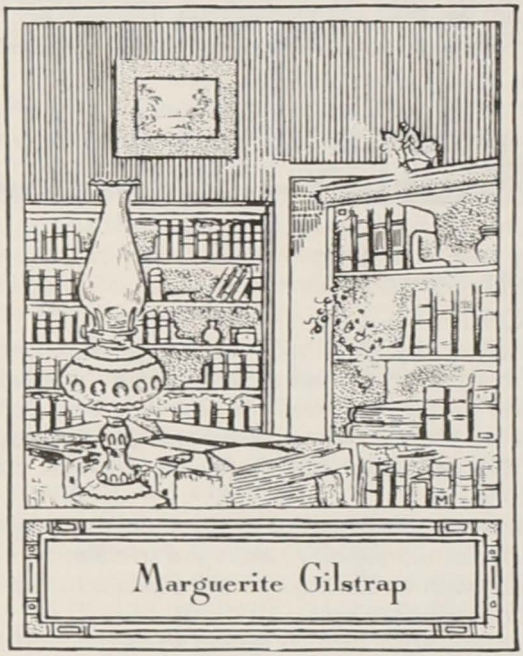
During the next two weeks I found myself at Gayeta three times, once with Dorothy Nichols to get the Squire to autograph five copies of books ordered by a Mr. Keddie and two days later with Mary and Alletah for a hike. We found Vincent and Kate and Jack Appleby there. On December 1 we went back to play Monopoly with Charlie who had yellow jaundice as we called hepatitis in those days.

My last visit in 1936 was with Dorothy Nichols who was serving as chauffeur for Konrad Bercovici, a visiting lecturer at the University. Though this was my first time to see him, I had known Bercovici as a writer since I lived in St. Paul. I read his gypsy stories in *Saturday Evening Post* which I bought for a nickel from the news butch on the St. Paul train. A native of Romania, he had the square Slavic face and thick black hair of his people. He wore his hair in a pompadour and slightly longer than the style in Fayetteville.

At Gayeta he and the Squire immediately launched into talk about writers they knew. Two of particular interest to them were T.E. Lawrence, who had been killed in a motorcycle crash a year before and Jack London. Bercovici said that some interesting secret that was not to be divulged for many years was buried with Lawrence. Mr. Finger took us to his studio to see a death mask of London. Back in

the living room, Bercovici asked about the piano, was invited to play, sat down, struck a chord and said, "My God, it's out of tune." That ended his performance.

That evening I told the Fingers goodbye. I was to leave in a few days for a job on the Hollywood, Florida, *Sun*. I had been there only six weeks when I was offered a job in the News Bureau and Alumni Office at the University. Although I was back in Fayetteville, my work was more demanding. I had to keep office hours from 8 to 4:30 five days a week and until noon on Saturday. The visits to Gayeta continued but were not so frequent and I could no longer be a book agent.



One reminder of the Gayeta influence is the plate in the books I acquired during those years. It shows a lamp in the foreground of a booklined room that could have been the Fingers'. I have a book from the shelf by the fireplace that the Squire gave me on my last visit before his death. It is Samuel Hoffenstein's *Poems in Praise of Practically Nothing* inscribed "With hearty good wishes of Chas. J. Finger."

We were at a Mexican tea where Doris was showing mementos of a holiday trip when we heard of the Squire's death, January 7, 1941. We went to Gayeta that evening to be with Mrs. Finger and Helen. As the other members of the family arrived, we learned he had been ill with influenza. We were there two days later for the service. As Helen read John Gould Fletcher's poem memorializing "this steadfast changeless man," the happy times at Gayeta came to mind and I knew they would not be lost or forgotten.

Snatches of Memories — Sketches

by Arista Joyner*:

BAGPIPE.

Somehow, by this time, Mr. Finger had become Dad Finger to me. I had a curious deep respect and affection for him and realized that his every concern was to broaden the horizons of the young people.

On this particular day, he decided to get out his bag pipes.

He huffed and puffed and blew up the bagpipes. His body leaned slightly backward to balance his rotund stomach as he hoisted the pipes into a proper position under his arm.

The many shrill and shrieking sounds which came from the pipes as he tested the bellows soon were — shall I say, controlled (?), and he began to march with noble military steps back and forth at the far end of the front yard.

Flushed and hot, he performed as a parade of one.

*Arista Joyner was Helen Leflar's roommate at Gulf Park College. This incident occurred during one of her frequent visits to Gayeta in the early 1930's.

The Guest Book

by Helen Finger Leflar

Our mother, Nellie B., kept a guest book. It was entitled *Perpetual Year Book, a Perennial Diary* and the color was wine red. After the fire of '74, we discovered it unharmed inside, although the outer cover was sadly scorched and the spine raveled. She began it about 1924, never knowing how valuable a family document it would become.

Mom was a girl of the high prairies of West Texas, gentle, shy, and with cornflower blue eyes. When young she had a mass of glossy black hair which in later years turned to a shining silver. She was a lover of nature and wise about birds, wild flowers, and the wheeling constellations. As did Thomas Jefferson, she noted in her book the dates of such occurrences as the first blooming of the wild crocus, the migration of the whippoorwills through the Ozarks (April 17), the variances of temperature, the first frosts, the tornadoes and dust storms. Tucked into the pages are pressed wild flowers, recipes, and telegrams announcing the births of the first grandchildren.

When literary celebrities or just groups of people visited, or guests had arrived for expansive meals, she would enter the living room, graceful in an ankle-length skirt and white ruffled blouse, and timidly ask those present to sign her book. Her record from 1925 to 1949 is a tale unto itself.

From the scores of signatures I have selected only a few, choosing literary folk and others prominent in their own fields.

1925

January 1 - Cecil Shuford, local poet and Charles Morrow Wilson of Fayetteville, author of numerous books.

January 11 - Henry Tovey, head of the University of Arkansas Music Department, whose inscription reads, "I write the opposite of 'Quoth the Raven.' "

February 11 - Edgar Lee Masters, author of *Spoon River Anthology.*

August 26 - J.W. "Bill" Fulbright, United States Senator. At the

The Dolly Sitton Bentley

Julius Herman Field was an internationally recognized photographer who lived and worked in Fayetteville from 1913 to 1936. His work is characterized by the use of natural light and a soft-lens technique.

"*Arkansas House*" Fayetteville

Band Stand, Trent's Park, Fay

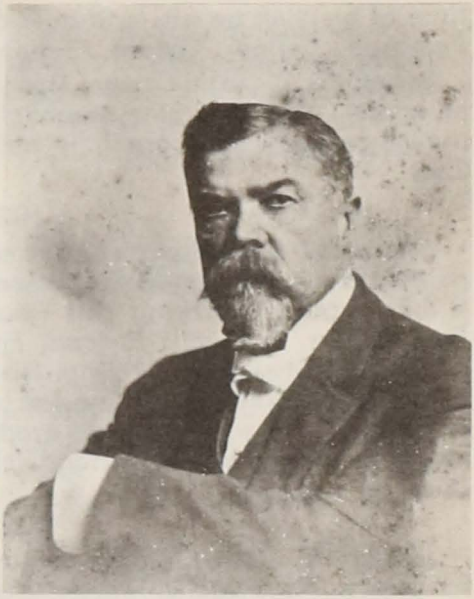
Woman with flowers

Christmas card

tographic Collection

of his photographs that were in the ssion of Lessie Strinfellow Reed are n the Dolly Sitton Bentley Photogra- Collection.

Kitty Finger



Dr. A. S. Gregg

Man picking pumpkin

time of his visit he was a Rhodes Scholar and listed his address as Pembroke College, Oxford, England.

December 2 - John Cowper Powys, British novelist. In a bold hand he wrote, "... of Burpham, Arundel, Sussex, England — and also of the inner circle who are fully able to appreciate Charles Finger, Esqr."

1926

August 25 - Paul Honore of Detroit, a muralist, pupil of the English painter Frank Brangwyn, and master of wood-block illustrations. The C.J.F. books carrying his wood blocks are *Highwaymen, Bushrangers, Romantic Rascals, Frontier Ballads, Tales From Silver Lands* and *Tales Worth Telling.* His inscription reads, "... of the ancient order of Rascals." Alongside is his delightful sketch of the head of a pirate. We watched wide eyed as he skillfully painted in oils a laughing face of a Robin Hood fellow on one of the dining room doors.

1927

January 8 - John Gould Fletcher, Arkansas Pulitzer Prize winner for poetry. Mr. Fletcher wrote, "Souvenir of an English dinner with plum pudding in the heart of the Ozarks on a sunny afternoon." This must have been the first of many visits Mr. Fletcher made to Gayeta. He and Dad enjoyed and respected one another and held leisurely discussions about authors and their works.

February 13 - Cecil Roberts, British poet. He wrote, "A little bit of England made at home in Fayetteville."

April 25 - Glenn Ward Dresbach, poet of the Midwest. His inscription reads, "With the feel of wings with this day for you, dear ones. Always gratefully yours."

July 10 - W.H. "Coin" Harvey, the financial dreamer who made a modest fortune from his pamphlet, *Coin's Financial School,* and built the "pyramid" at Monte Ne.

1929

October 18 - Ruth Suckow, author of novels of the Midwest.

1932

November 5 - A delightful and varied group gathered at Gayeta's fireplace. The guests included Arctic explorer Vill'amur Stefanssen, who wrote, "Here with his friends the Fingers."; Hal and Violet Trivillion, printers of fine gift books; and Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni, a handsome and verbal local poet whose inscription reads, "Life is a pencil sharpener. It consumes while sharpening." There also were two guests from Australia.

1933

June 11 - Lewis Gannett, book critic for the *Herald Tribune.*

1936

November 16 - Robert M. "Bob" Davis, roving journalist for the *New York Sun,* came to visit and also acted as chef for the inscription is, "Bacon Sans Souci from Hayti served by Pauline, sister of Napoleon, to her guests at Cape Hatian 1804... at Point Finger, Fayetteville." G.W. Maddox (the "Major"), one of our favorite guests, added, "A dish for us Gods."

1936

December 14 - Konrad Bercovici, author of gypsy tales, signed the guest book. He struck a few chords on the Steinway and declared it woefully out of tune.

1940

April 23 - Elizabeth Coatsworth, Newberry Award author and her husband, Henry Beston, nature writer. Mrs. Coatsworth wrote, "Here we sit by the fire, the cool blue light outside, the dogs on the hearth, good talk passing from one to the other, and contentment in the heart." Henry Beston noted, "The measure of any civilization is the emphasis it places on the unnecessary."

1942

May 26 - Charlie May Simon, Arkansas author and her husband, John Gould Fletcher.

1946

April 10 - Frederick Simpich, editor of *National Geographic.*

1949

August 8 - Governor Sid McMath.

"I have said that I turned to writing as a partial means of support. I did not deliberately sit down and contrive a story. I did not invent a situation. The beginnings of things in story writing came from something seen or experienced. My mind played with an idea and out of that there were ramifications, until, with work, the whole resolved itself into a pattern."

—From *Seven Horizons,* by Charles J. Finger

My dear Vance Randolph:

I put aside the work I am doing, going at it furiously too, to answer your letter, and that comes all very unexpectedly to me, because I opened your big envelope with no great anticipations, looked through your pamphlets and found, to my great happiness, real gold.

Why have I not known you before? I have looked through many, many articles on Ozark dialect and I say, without unmerited praise, that you stand miles above them all. You may take that as meant most sincerely.

Of your Verbal modesty I shall avail myself somewhat, taking it for granted you will not object, in the work I am now doing and which I have just set aside — an Appreciation of Robert Burns — quoting you. It will fit in with a click, as it were, with a passage in my book for I had, as I thought, astonished the natives with 'gentleman cow.' When first I came to live here I bought a Registered Jersey bull, and, as the neighbors did not patronize it though I had lowered the service charge to meet that of the scrub stock, I wrote on the notice board at the mail box:

Registered Jersey Bull service.

A good man, preacher-farmer-teacher, carefully rubbed out bull and it read as amended:

Registered Jersey Mail service,

which struck me as having a peculiar post-office connotation.

As to the Ozark songs, the trouble is that people do not sing, and I really think that you should take notice of the brush-arbor preachers Song book. They come as near to being ballad collections as anything I know. I suppose you have seen my Annie Breen in the Frontier Ballads which is truly Ozarkian and was, I think, partially made up by a blind minstrel who goes about with a guitar.

But of all you should read my tale, Eric, in which I try, as best I can, to reproduce the original Ozarkian in his speech, his prejudices, his beliefs, his hates. If you have no copy or can get none, let me know and I shall send you the book, which is now out of print. But two publishers have made overtures to bring out a new and enlarged edition.

It is, I hope, quite understood between us that you are to use anything of mine that seems pleasing to you. And also understand that you are to call on me for anything you think I can give you. I shall, if you like, write a preface for you, and do it gladly, for your pamphlets do indeed please me.

Sincerely, Charles J. Finger

Editor's Note: Copy of a first letter in the correspondence between Charles J. Finger and Vance Randolph, noted collector and author of many works on the Ozarks. In Otto Ernest Rayburn's *Ozark Folk Encyclopedia*, University of Arkansas Library, Fayetteville.

"There are two worlds: The world that we can measure with line and rule, and the world that we feel with our hearts and imagination."

Attention Writers!

TO THE WRITERS, COMPOSERS, AND ILLUSTRATORS of the tri-state Ozark area Ozark Life extends an invitation to be present at the Ozarkian Writers' Convention at Kingston, Arkansas, August 26 and 27.

This Convention will open with a banquet on Friday evening at seven o'clock and close with a general meeting, open to the public, Saturday night.

The purpose of the meeting is to organize an Ozark Writers' Guild or Club. Writers, composers, and illustrators of the Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma Ozarks will be admitted to membership. The only requisite for charter membership is a sincere desire to serve Ozarkland in a literary way. Young writers will be admitted on an equal basis with professionals at this convention but later entry will be governed by the constitution and by-laws of the Guild.

The addresses, round table discussions, and special meeting will be especially helpful to young writers. The following have been invited to take part in the programs and the majority of them will be present: W. H. Strong, the Old Ozarker, Charles J. Finger, the Squire of the Ozarks, Stanley Andrews, Editor of the Arkansas Farmer, James T. Richmond, Editor of the Ozark News and Feature Service, Bernie Babcock, author of The Soul of Ann Rutledge, etc. A. M. Haswell, Carl B. Ike, Mrs. A. Marinoni, May Stafford Hilburn, Herb Lewis, Townsend Godsey, Clio Harper, W. H. (Coin) Harvey, G. Madden Jones, Tom Shiras, and others.

Write Ozark Life for details. Programs will be ready for distribution August 6th.

There is a chord in every heart that has understanding in it if touched aright.
The Ozark Writers through cooperation will touch
the heart of the world.

Charles J. Finger was active in the professional organizations of local writers. He was a frequent contributor to Otto Rayburn's *Ozark Life*, published by the Kingsland Press at Kingston, Arkansas.

Excerpts From Letters

Charles J. Finger, Jr. to Marguerite Gilstrap, December 10, 1979:

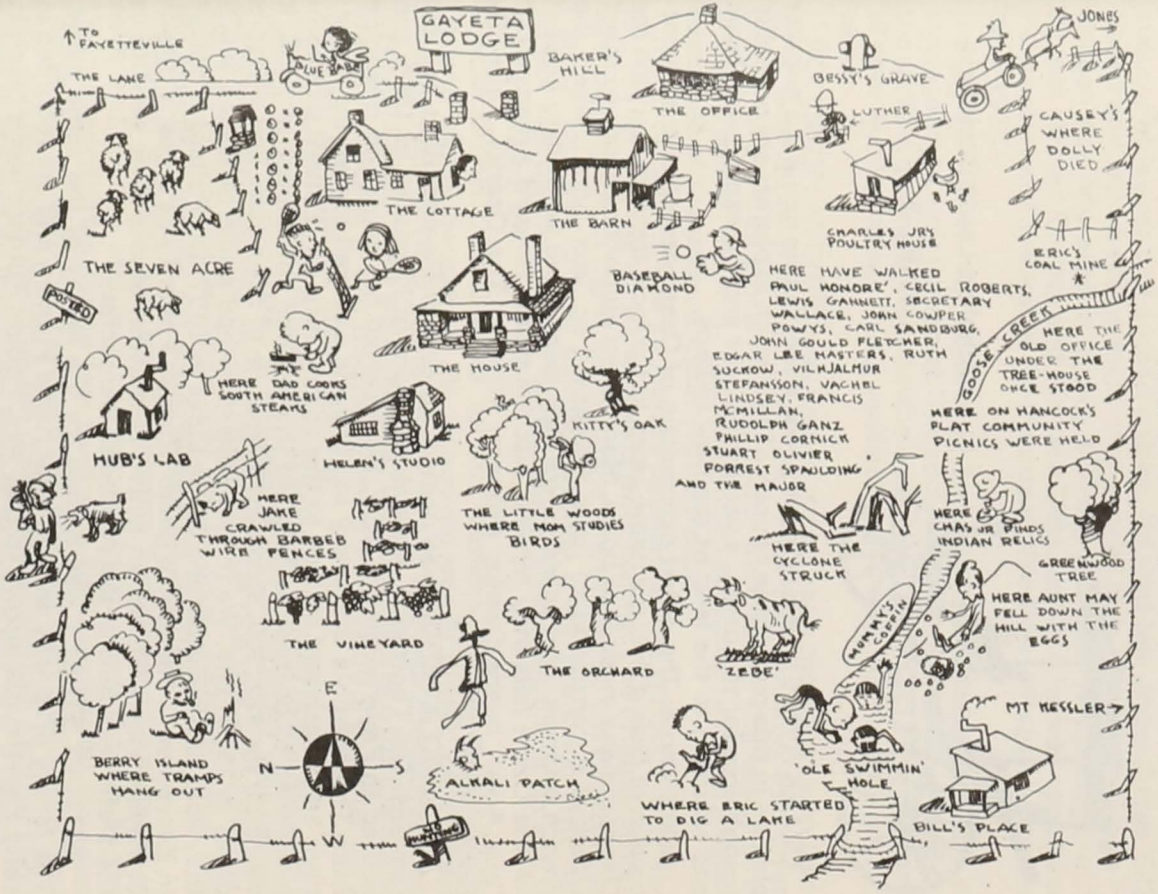
"I believe that the most complete accounting of events at Gayeta was written in *All's Well.* Dad always described the visits of notable and interesting people in his little magazine. If you have access to a file of *All's Well,* then you will have the whole history of Gayeta, written by the master himself."*

**All's Well; or The Mirror Repolished* is reproduced on microfilm at the University of Arkansas Library, Audio-Visual Department.

"Kitty" Finger Helbling to Marguerite Gilstrap, January 10, 1980.

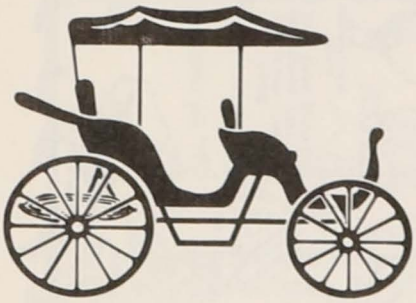
"The greatest tribute to Dad would probably be that in the early twenties he had the courage and faith in his ability to undertake an entirely new way of life for himself and his family at an age when most men are willing to settle for security in their existing jobs and environment.

"His genius lay primarily in his ability to apply his vital energy and searching imagination to available material in such a manner that he was successful in garnering the necessities of life, education, and creature comforts for his large family group and such hangers-on who stayed at Gayeta Lodge from time to time — some for rather extended periods."


GAYETA LODGE
↑ To FAYETTEVILLE
THE LANE
BLUE BIRD
BAKER'S HILL
THE OFFICE
BESSY'S GRAVE
LUTHER
JONES →
CAUSEY'S WHERE DOLLY DIED
THE COTTAGE
THE BARN
CHARLES JR'S POULTRY HOUSE
ERIC'S COAL MINE
THE SEVEN ACRE
POTTED
BASEBALL DIAMOND
HERE HAVE WALKED PAUL HONORE', CECIL ROBERTS, LEWIS GANNETT, SECRETARY WALLACE, JOAN COWPER POWYS, CARL SANDBURG, JOHN GOULD FLETCHER, EDGAR LEE MASTERS, RUTH SUCKOW, VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON, VACHEL LINDSEY, FRANCIS McMILLAN, RUDOLPH GANZ PHILLIP CORMICK STUART OLIVIER FORREST SPAULDING AND THE MAJOR
GOOSE CREEK
HERE THE OLD OFFICE UNDER THE TREE-HOUSE ONCE STOOD
THE HOUSE
HERE DAD COOKS SOUTH AMERICAN STEAKS
HERE ON HANCOCK'S FLAT COMMUNITY PICNICS WERE HELD
HUB'S LAB
HELEN'S STUDIO
KITTY'S OAK
HERE JAKE CRAWLED THROUGH BARBED WIRE FENCES
THE LITTLE WOODS WHERE MOM STUDIES BIRDS
HERE CHAS JR FINDS INDIAN RELICS
GREENWOOD TREE
HERE THE CYCLONE STRUCK
HERE AUNT MAY FELL DOWN THE HILL WITH THE EGGS
MUMMY'S GRAVE
THE VINEYARD
THE ORCHARD
ZEBE'
MT KESSLER →
E
N
S
W
BERRY ISLAND WHERE TRAMPS HANG OUT
ALKALI PATCH
WHERE ERIC STARTED TO DIG A LAKE
'OLE SWIMMIN' HOLE
BILL'S PLACE

An Early Gayeta Christmas Card c.1935

The Naming of Fayetteville's Streets



by Stephen Lewis Davis*

PART 3

OZARK AVENUE is a relatively new street but its name is a popular old one in this part of the country. The French explorers are probably responsible for the name, a version of "auz arcs" meaning with bows and referring to the land of the Bow Indians.

Editor's note: The oldest explanation of Ozark describes it as a corruption of Bois d'Arc, the name given to the local trees from which the Osage Indians made their bows. More recent authorities have proposed Ozark is a corruption of "aux Arkansas" or "aux Arks". When the French trappers were asked where they were going when they headed for the Ozark hills they replied "aux Arkansas" (toward Arkansas) or "auz Arks", hence Ozarks. (Rhodes, Richard, **The Ozarks.** *Time-Life Books, c1974. P.33.)*

POLLARD AVENUE was named for one of Fayetteville's earliest families. Dr. Thomas J. Pollard was born in Kentucky in 1805 and settled in Fayetteville in 1839. He received his degree in medicine from Transylvania University in 1829. He was well known for his patient and consistent service to the community. Dr. Pollard was commissioned to oversee building of the original courthouse in 1868. It was built for $22,500, stood in the middle of the square and was torn down in 1905. Drs. Wade and Pollard owned a line of stages which they sold to the Butterfield Stage Lines in 1857. Dr. Pollard is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. William Stirman Pollard was an early mayor of Fayetteville and was an active Democrat, at one time serving as the state president of the Arkansas Democrats.

PUTMAN STREET was named for the family of the same name. The family originally spelled their name Putnam and are recorded in early Fayetteville history in that way. Reding Putnam was a teacher, merchant, lumberman, and doctor and was associated with every for-

ward movement in Fayetteville. L. Reding Putman was born in a house near the middle of the block between Center and University Streets. When the Frisco came to Fayetteville, they cut through his back yard and ruined his playground.

REAGAN STREET was named for an early and prominent Fayetteville family. Wilbur D. Reagan came to Fayetteville in 1838, was a successful lawyer and a good citizen. He read law under Judge S.G. Sneed and later became mentor to several men of success. Hugh F. Reagan was educated in county schools and Cane Hill College until he was elected County and Probate Clerk. In 1914 he was appointed Postmaster at Fayetteville by President Woodrow Wilson and served until 1919.

ROCK STREET was so named because of the large quantity of stone located near the street. The rock was quarried and was used for the earliest paving of Fayetteville's streets in the 1830s. The rock was of poor quality mostly being sandstone, and was only used for a short while.

ROLLSTON AVENUE was named for an early merchant who owned a local store after the Civil War. Miss Lila Rollston was given charge of the City Library in 1918. She went to the University of Illinois for special training. The library then occupied two rooms in the basement of the present County Courthouse.

SCHOOL STREET is so named because of the school which was located on it at the time the streets were named. The original school was located across the street from the site where the old Fayetteville High School was located before it burned a few years ago. The old school was the first school in the newly formed town and its site is now a parking lot.

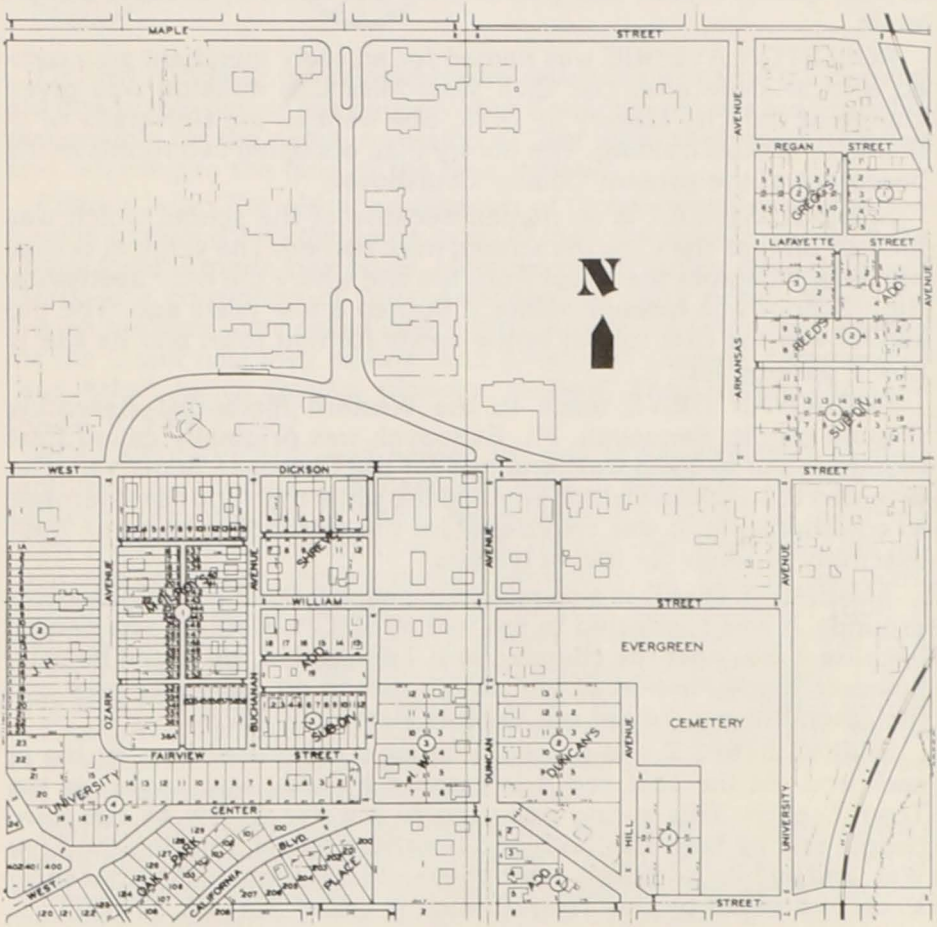
SEQUOYAH DRIVE leads to the Western Methodist Assembly Ground on Mt. Sequoyah. Mt. Sequoyah was originally called East Mountain but in 1923 was renamed for the Cherokee Sequoyah who invented the alphabet which enabled the white man and the Cherokee to communicate. It was traditional for the Methodists to name their assembly grounds for Indian leaders.

ASSEMBLY ROAD is also named because it leads to the Assembly grounds. It was suggested to me that MISSION STREET was named because it was near the church camp. I doubt that this could be true, however, since Mission Street was shown on an 1894 city map and the assembly ground did not exist as such until 1923.

SPRING STREET was named because it is crossed by a spring at each end. At the east end it is crossed by what was known as the Town Branch. This spring was used as a water supply by the town people and by both Northern and Southern soldiers during the Civil War, and by bushwhackers when they were not around. Another short street is crossed by this Town Branch is called WATER STREET.

STONE STREET was named in honor of Stephen K. Stone, a wealthy Fayetteville merchant and landowner. Stone bought the four hundred acres of land where Fayetteville High School and Bates Elementary School are now located. The land was sold to the city. He gave the land where the City Hospital now stands to the City of Fayetteville in 1906.

SUTTON STREET was named for a prominent family in Fayetteville's history. William Seneca Sutton graduated from the Arkansas Industrial University at the age of eighteen. He became a distinguished educator in the state of Texas. In an excerpt from J.L. Dickson's Diary he says: (December 26, 1858)... "James Sutton died this morning of congestion. He was an honest man and at one time was perhaps the most extensive retail merchant in Arkansas. He was buried this afternoon at Judge Walkers burying ground beside his brother, Seneca Sutton." Mrs. Margaret Sutton Lee now lives on Walnut



Street. Seneca Sutton was her grandfather and George Sutton was her father. James and Seneca had a retail store where the McIlroy Bank is now standing.

TOWNSHIP ROAD was so named because it runs right down the dividing line between T-17-N and T-16-N. Everything north of the road is in township number 17 and everything south is in township number 16.

TRENT AVENUE was named for the family of the same name. Reverend Josiah Trent (1802-1877) came to Arkansas in 1828 and settled in what is now Farmington. About a year later the Wolsey (Woolsey) family located in that same area. In 1830 Josiah married Sarah Wolsey. Their son A.L. Trent developed the Fayetteville City Park (Wilson Park) on his property. He landscaped the land, planting some 2,000 maple trees in the area, and dug the first swimming pool (it was not concrete). Josiah Trent and Sarah Wolsey Trent had ten other children, one of whom was also named Sarah Trent. She later married to become Sarah Trent Conner. The street adjacent to Trent Street is named CONNER STREET for the Conner branch of the family. TRENT STREET, the street leading to the City Park, is also probably named in honor of the Trents.

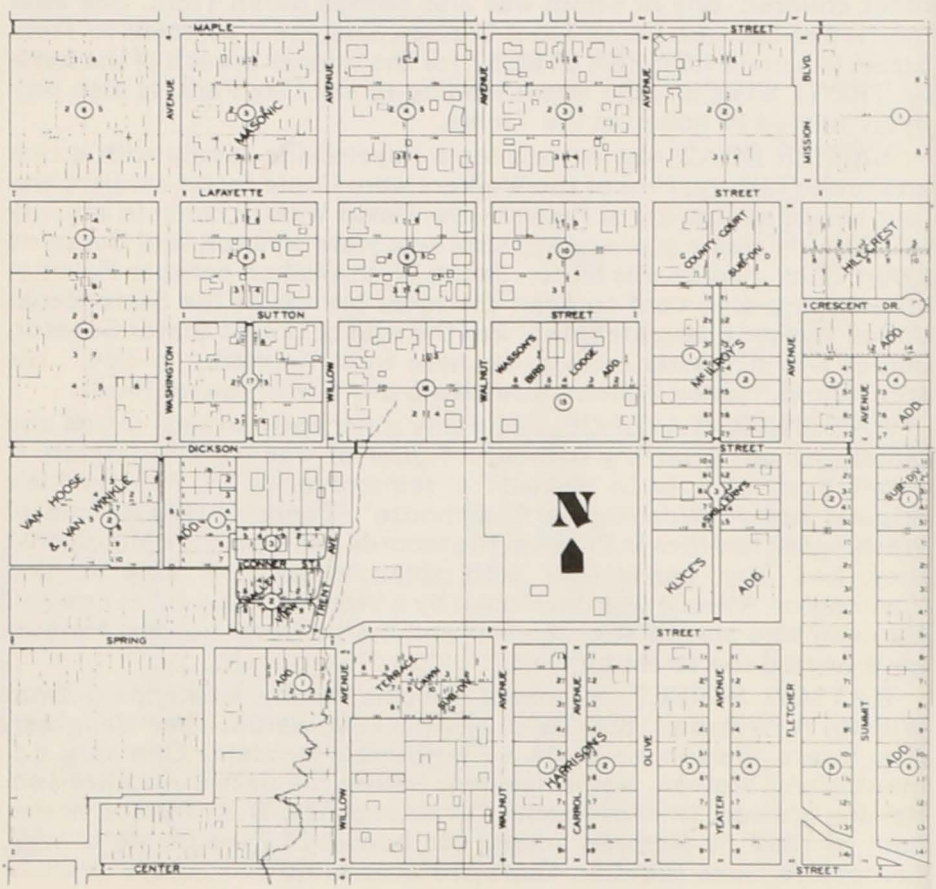
WALKER ROAD was named for a Fayetteville family with a rich and proud history. Five of the Walkers were Confederate soldiers and four served as mayors of Fayetteville. David Walker came to our city in 1830. He was a prosecuting attorney, state senator, and Supreme Court Chief Justice. His father, Jacob Wyth Walker, came to Fayetteville shortly afterward to head the local branch of the State Bank. Judge Walker's daughter Mary was the wife of United States Senator, James David Walker, who came here from Kentucky in 1847. His son, James Volney Walker, was also a prominent lawyer here.

WASHINGTON AVENUE, like many other early streets, towns and buildings, was probably named in honor of George Washington. It could have also been named in remembrance of Fayetteville's original name "Washington Courthouse". There were a couple of Washington families in Fayetteville records but it seems unlikely that they had any connection with this street. The area around Washington Avenue was developed by a veteran Union officer named Harrison who stayed after the war and built several houses. He may have named the street himself.

WATSON STREET is named for the family descending from William A. Watson (1830-1900) and his wife, Sarah. Their daughter, Mrs. Grace Watson Keith, is a Fayetteville resident. One son, Edmond Penn Watson, was a resident before his death. Another son, Hayden Watson, lives in Miami, Oklahoma. The W.A. Watson home, built in 1852, is pictured among old homes of Fayetteville in W.S. Campbell's "One Hundred Years of Fayetteville".

WILSON AVENUE was named in honor of another of Fayetteville's oldest families. Alfred M. Wilson was a member of the State Legislature and was appointed as United States District Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas by President Pierce. In 1850 one of Fayettevilles most distinguished sons, Senator Robert J. Watson was born. In 1858 Alfred M. Wilson built on the corner of Maple and Wilson Streets. Five generations of Wilsons lived there before it was removed to make room for the Pi Beta Phi Sorority House. Washington Wilson is buried in Walker Cemetery. He was a charter member of the Masons in 1835 with Archibald Yell and was a merchant, having his store on the North side of the Square.

WOOLSEY AVENUE, a street near the City Park, was named for this family. The Woolsey family originated in England and are related to Cardinal Thomas Woolsey. In Colonial days they settled in



Virginia, then moved to Kentucky, and then to Arkansas Territory in about 1830. The change in spelling to Woolsey seems to have been made at about this time. Sarah Woolsey, the daughter of Samuel and Matilda Woolsey, married Josiah Trent in 1830.

YEATER was named for the Yeater family. Sally Yeater, a rebel refugee from Missouri during the Civil War married Union Captain E.B. Harrison. The Yeater family owned land on East Mountain. Part of their land became the Mt. Sequoyah Assembly Ground. Miss Laura Yeater lived on Maple Street across from the Women's gym where there is now a parking area next to the Methodist Chapel. She was a teacher.

ILLUSTRATIONS — *Fayetteville City Map in Quarter Sections*, 1957-1959; in Tom Feathers Memorial Library, WCHS Collection.

CHARLES J. FINGER BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Cont'd. from pg. 9)

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*Ms. Taylor prepared this bibliography for publication in *Arkansas Libraries*, June 1978. She cited the previous work of Alice Jansema Finger, whose bibliography is in the possession of Helen Finger Leflar, and William Baker, who compiled the Finger *Checklist*.

Genealogy Tables

BROWNE FAMILY

Compiled by Gayle Patterson

—I

1. Lawrence Leland Browne, Jr. (Col. USAF), b 27 Sept 1920 Kansas City KS, m 25 Dec 1943 to Kathryn Eudora Brogdon (b 11 Feb 1921 Springdale AR).

—II

2. Lawrence Leland Browne, b 26 July 1890 Wyandotto (Kansas City) KS, m 20 Dec 1919.
3. Norma Rheem Hannon, b 15 Dec 1893 Kansas City KS, d (date?) Fayetteville AR.

—III

4. Evan Hugh Wanton Browne, b 17 May 1865 Kansas City MO, m 13 Nov 1889, d 1 Feb 1930 Kansas City KS.
5. Lillian Leland, b 1 Jan 1864 Ottawa IL, d 6 Sept 1963 Kansas City KS.
6. Warren Montgomery Hannon, b 19 Mar 1859 Charles Co. MD, m 12 Oct 1892, d 9 Sept 1949 Fayetteville AR.
7. Eva Mabel Rogers, b 17 Dec 1868 Cincinnati OH, d 31 May 1927 Kansas City KS.

—IV

8. Lawrence Pembroke Browne, b 7 Dec 1830 Towanda PA, m 24 Oct 1854, d 8 Dec 1893 Kansas City MO.
9. Artless Jane Ladd, b 5 Feb 1831 Worthington OH, d 6 Sept 1906 Kansas City MO.
10. Pardon Kimball Leland, b 1 June 1828 Grafton MA, m 26 Mar 1856, d 5 Sept 1905 Kansas City KS.
11. Elizabeth Margaret White, b 12 Jan 1834 Pittsburgh PA, d (date?) Kansas City KS.
12. Noel Byron Hannon, b 22 Nov 1834 Pomonfrey, Charles Co. MD, m 15 Apr 1856, d 13 Feb 1892 Springfield IL.
13. Eliza Jane Rheem, b 18 Oct 1835 Carlisle PA, d 25 July 1906 Springfield IL.
14. John Rogers, b 5 Oct 1832 Glasgow Scotland, m 28 Mar 1859, d 1920 Hollywood CA.
15. Catherine Capen Steel, b 18 Jan 1835-6 Cincinnati OH, d 21 Dec 1906 Los Angeles or Hollywood CA, bur Los Angeles CA.

—V

16. Warren Brown, b 8 July 1791 Great Barrington MA, m 20 Jan 1814, d 11 Oct 1855 Springfield IL.
17. Ruth Ann Kinne, b 25 Apr 1790 Sheshequin PA, d 7 Dec 1859 St. Louis MO.
18. John Wanton Ladd, b 10 Aug 1793 Warwick RI, m 10 Sept 1812, d 25 Sept 1866 Wyondotte KS.
19. Lydia Constance (Sweet) Brown, b 1791 Providence RI, d 3 Mar 1869 Wyandotte KS.
20. Cyrus Leland, b 1785 Grafton MA, m 1808, d 1831 Grafton MA.
21. Betsy Kimball, b 1787, d 1854.
22. John White. Ireland.
23. Margaret Maxwell, Scotland.
24. Walter Warren Hannon, Jr., b ca 1796 Pomonhey, Charles Co. MD, m 19 Dec 1816, d 1852 Pomonhey MD.
25. Anne Dailey, b ca 1800-01 Alexandria VA.
26. Jacob Rheem, b 10 Sept 1810 Carlisle PA, m 6 Nov 1832, d 28 Feb 1899 Carlisle PA.
27. Susan Kauffman, b 5 Sept 1816 Carlisle PA, d 1 Aug 1874 Carlisle PA.
28. William Rogers, b ?, m 1821 Ballebay, Monoghan Co. Ireland, d 1855 Cincinnati OH.
29. Rebecca McMurray, b 1801 near Clovis, Monaghan Co. Ireland.
30. Samuel Steel, b 1800 KY, m Apr 1821, d 1862 St. Charles Co. MO.
31. Sarah Collins, b 1809 OH, d 1855 St. Charles Co. MO.

—VI

32. Perez Brown, b ca 1742.
33. Betty Church, b 1743 New Marlborough MA.
34. Joseph Kinne (III), b 25 Mar 1756 Plainfield CN, m 18 June 1781, d 3 June 1841 Sheshequin PA.
35. Sarah Spalding, b 31 Jan 1763 Preston CN, d 9 June 1840 Sheshequin PA.
36. Job Ladd, b Dec 1766 Warwick RI, m 23 Sept 1792, d 23 Feb 1836.
37. Sarah Potter, d 21 Nov 1799.
38. James Sweet, b 1622 England, d 1693.
40. Eleazer Leland, b 1755 Grafton MA, d 1827 Grafton MA.
41. Elizabeth Sherman, b 1760, d 1821.

42. Noah Brooks Kimball, b 19 May 1756 Grafton MA, m 1782, d 21 Aug 1856 Grafton MA.
43. Mary Chase, d 1806.
48. Walter Warren Hannon, Sr.
62. Norman Collins, b 13 Dec 1769 Litchfield CN, m Apr 1787.
63. Elizabeth Hurlburt, b 4 May 1769 Litchfield CN.

—VII

64. Phineas Brown, b 10 Jan 1707 Canterbury CN, m 19 June 1729.
65. Abigail Johnson, b 29 Sept 1710 Canterbury CN.
66. Noah Church, b 1712 Marlborough MA, m 1742, d 10 Aug 1798 New Marlborough MA.
67. Lydia Barnard, b 12 Oct 1717.
68. Joseph Kinne (II), b 1717 Preston CN, m 12 June 1755, d (date?) Cardigan NH.
69. Jemima (Newcomb) Lamb, b 14 Dec 1730 Lebanon CN, d 14 Aug 17?? Thetford VT.
70. Simon Spalding, Jr., b 16 Jan 1742 Plainfield CN, m 15 Apr 1761, d 24 Jan 1814 Sheshequin PA.
71. Ruth Shepard, b 1742, d 1806.
72. John Ladd, b Charlestown RI.
73. Mrs. Ann (Arnold) Green.
80. Phineas Leland, b 1730 Grafton MA, d 1773 Grafton MA.
81. Sarah Warren, b 1731, d 1803 Grafton MA.
84. Aaron Kimball, b 15 Feb 1729 Norwich CN, m 1753, d 20 Nov 1823 Grafton MA.
85. Mary Brooks, b 29 Jan 1737, d 12 Aug 1823 Grafton MA.
124. John Collins, b 1 June 1739 Litchfield CN, m 1765, d 25 Feb 1792 Litchfield CN.
125. Lydia Buell, b 11 Nov 1742 Goshen CN, d 26 Sept 1790 Litchfield CN.
126. Josiah Hurlburt, b 1735.
127. Mable Deming, b 24 Aug 1743, d 18 Jan 1790.

—VIII

128. Thomas Brown, b ca 1680 Chelmsford MA, m 1705-06.
129. Rachel Leavens, b 10 Dec 1685 Roxbury MA.
130. Obadiah Johnson, b 15 June 1664 Woburn MA, m 7 Sept 1696, d 17 July 1740 Canterbury CN.
131. Rebecca Brooks, d 1752.
132. David Church, b 1703 (?) Marlborough MA, d 1710.
133. Mary (Wilder) Howe.

134. Robert Barnard, b 28 Mar 1689 Marlborough MA, m 14 Sept 1710, d 1773.
135. Rebecca Osgood, b 8 May 1692, d 29 July 1727.
136. Joseph Kinne, b 7 Sept 1680 Salem MA, m 28 June 1704, d 1745 Preston CN.
137. Keziah Peabody, b 1686 Topsfield MA, d 1745 Preston CN.
138. Hezekiah Newcomb, b 1693-94 Edgartown MA, m 14 Nov 1716, d 15 Aug 1772 Lebanon CN.
139. Jerusha Bradford, b 26 Nov 1692 Montville CN, d 4 Nov 1739 Lebanon CN.
140. Simon Spalding, b 7 Nov 1714 Plainfield CN, m 2 June 1737.
141. Anna Billings, b 21 Jan 1718, d 10 Oct 1754.
142. Isaac Shepard, b 1723, m 1743, d 1778 Plainfield CN.
143. Dorothy Prentice, b 1727, d 1772.
144. John Ladd, b 1734 Warwick RI, d 1787.
145. Lydia Olney, b 1752.
146. William Arnold, b 1587 England, d 1676.
147. Phebe Stafford.
160. James Leland, b 22 Sept 1687 Grafton MA, m 5 Apr 1710, d 1768 Grafton MA.
161. Hannah Learned, b 10 Sept 1690 Sherborn MA.
162. Samuel Warren, b 18 Mar 1704, m 26 Aug 1728 Weston MA, d 1775.
163. Tabitha Stone, b 1702.
168. Richard Kimball, b 1691, m 12 Dec 1715, d 1760.
169. Sarah Burley, b 1698.
170. Noah Brooks.
171. Sarah Williard.
248. Rev. Timothy Collins, b 11 Feb 1699 Guilford CN, m 16 Jan 1723, d 19 Feb 1777.
249. Elizabeth Hyde, b 12 Dec 1703 Lebanon CN.
250. Jonathan Buell, b 13 Dec 1717 Lebanon CN, m 10 Dec 1741.
251. Lydia Landon, b 1722 South Hampton, Long Island NY, d 12 Jan 1812 Goshen CN.
254. Samuel Deming, b 12 June 1699, m 16 June 1726, d 1773 Wethersfield CN.
255. Katherine Treat, b 26 Aug 1706, d Sept 1778.

WCHS has received a list of accessions available at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Library. If anyone would like further information, contact the WCHS office or Bobby Roberts, UALR Archives and Special Collections, 33rd and University, Little Rock, AR 72204.

Mount Comfort Cemetery: A letter from Mrs. W.L. Hare, Bloomfield, NM, gives this information: Wesley West Wyatt, b 1 Jan 1817, d 17 Oct 1855 and Susanna Wyatt, b 1823, d 13 Sept 1895 are buried in Mount Comfort Cemetery, but the stones have been destroyed.

Weddington Cemetery: Telitha Cumi Nation, b Nov 1844, d 19 Apr 1891 and James A Nation, her son, b 13 Dec 1883, d 11 Oct 1885. No markers at this time.

If you have proof of other burials which do not have markers, you are requested to write the Washington County Historical Society, 30 S. College Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72701.

LLoyd McConnell

"The Curtis Congregation, published in the August, 1980, *Flashback* contains some unidentified and erroneously identified persons. They are: No. 1, Lloyd Stockburger; No. 12, Calvin Stockburger; No. 15, listed as Frank, should be Paul Curtis; No. 16, listed as Paul, should be Leah Curtis; No. 17, Frank Curtis. Leah Curtis, No. 16, is seated in the lap of her mother, Effie Stockburger Curtis.

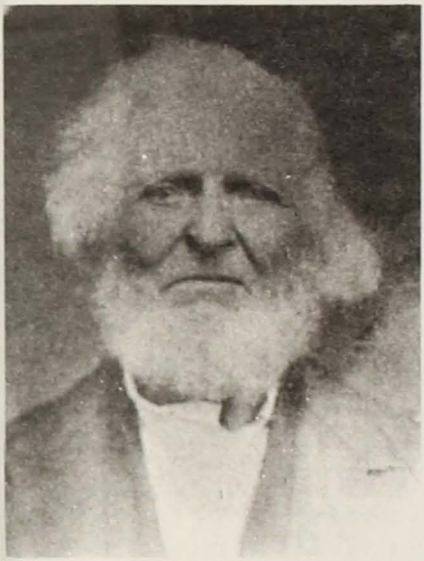
The name of Robert Miles Curtis, a son of Benjamin Marion Curtis and Mary Caroline Curtis, is omitted by error in listing their children. He should be listed following Malinda Elizabeth Curtis.

Copies of the August 1980 *Flashback*, including "The Curtis Congregation" are available at the Washington County Historical Office, 30 S. College, Fayetteville, AR 72701 at $2.00 each.

QUERIES

SCOTT, KENDRICK, SLOVER, RAINWATER, RICE, HERN, SMEDLEY, LAREMORE, DENTON, ALBERTY, TENNANT, McCALEB - Anyone who would like to exchange information on these families from early Washington, Benton, and Madison counties is asked to do so, especially concerning the descendants of Rev Thomas H. Tennant and Clarissa Isabel White Slover and the David McCaleb family; dtr. Charlotte m. George A. Alberty in 1868. Contact: Mrs. Lucile White Prior, 262 Prior Lane, Atherton, CA 94025.

MILLER, WALKER - Positive identification is needed on the photos below. The owner believes they may be a Mr. and Mrs. Walker or related to the Walker - Miller families. Contact: Mrs. E.W. McRae, 1534 Mesquite, Wichita Falls, TX 76302.



SMILEY - Frances Marion (Frank) Smiley b 1826 TN. Appeared on 1850, 1860 census of Washington County, AR, m(1) Tabitha Holcomb in 1846. Who were his parents? Where in TN was he born? m(2) Sarah Ann Reed b ca 1831 in 1852. She was from TN, who were her parents? Contact: Flossie Morgan Owens, 1026 W. 8th St., Freeport, TX 77541.

RAMEY, STRICKLER, MILLS. My Ramey name I am researching was inadvertently omitted from the '79 Membership Roll. I need names and dates of parents and brothers of Owen Ramey, who came to N.W. Ark. in 1836; also place of birth in VA. Can anyone identify soldiers in picture, page 18, Feb. 1980 *Flashback*? Owen's sons in 1st Ark. Cav. Co. B. Need parents' names and dates of Owen's wife, Elizabeth Strickler; what family raised her when orphaned? Need info on Enos Mills, b 1816 IN. d Sept 1850, son of Seth and father of Charity Ramey. Did Enos die on the trip to CA. He is listed in the 1850 mortality records of Dade Co. MO. Contact: Mrs. N. W. Prine, 1554 St. Charles, Springfield, MO 65804.

YELL, BARTON, WHITE, CURRY, McDONALD. Anyone with information on these families contact: Dwight Alford, Rt. 2, Box 55, Morrison, TN 37357.

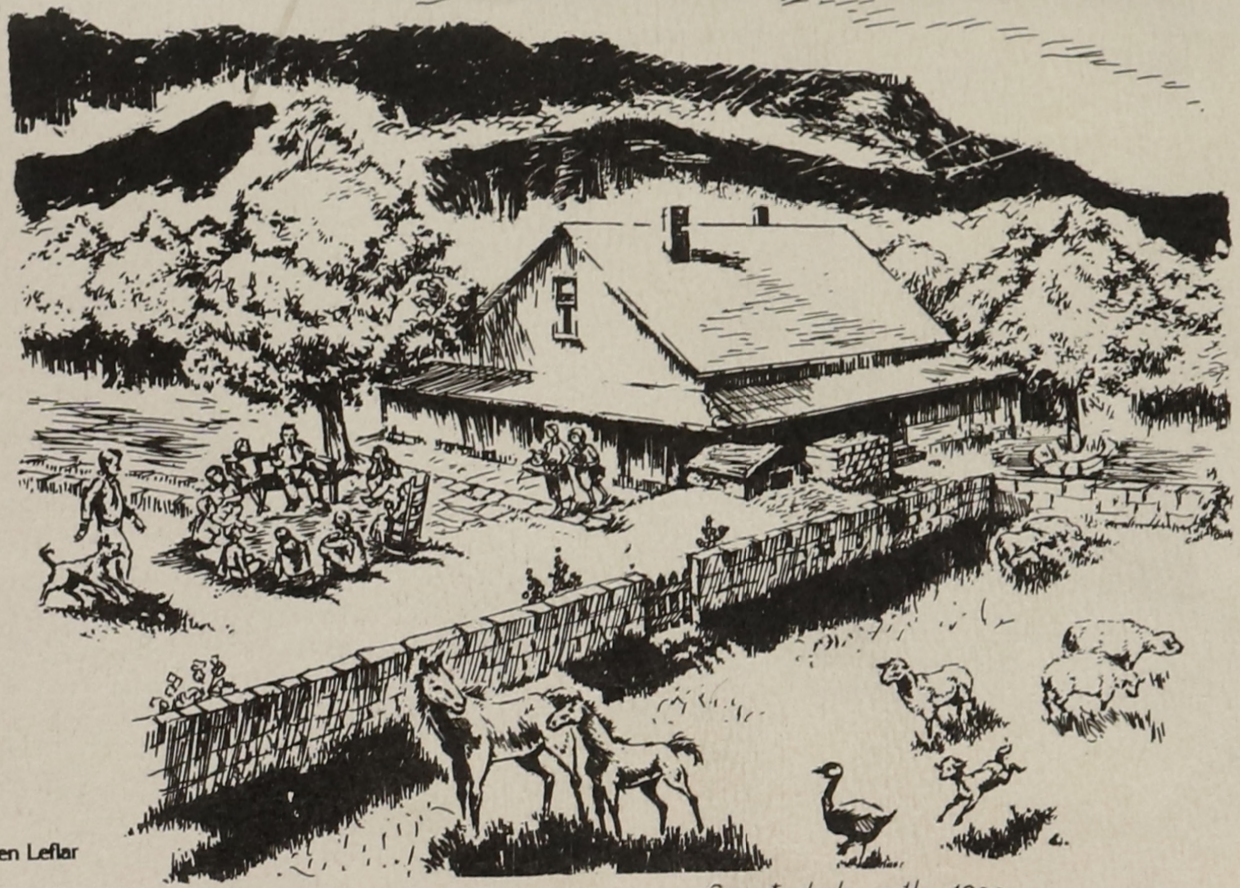
OXFORD. Any information such as birth and marriage records on Abel Oxford, James M. and Hetta Oxford, John A. and Sarah Joyce Oxford, and William Hurry Oxford would be appreciated. I also need to know where the John Oxford family moved to in TX and I would like a photograph of James and Hetta Oxford. Contact: Dorothy Morris, 10308 Longworth Ave., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670.

Reminder: Members of the WCHS are entitled to have Queries printed with no charge.

"There were a thousand paths to be trodden and I found myself free to choose. I could aim at fullness of life and not vacuity. I could come to deserve my own respect because I would earn my own living at first hand, somehow. I would leave behind all that debris among which I had been wandering, all that quoting of other men, all that following of beaten tracks, all that gush about the welfare of my fellow man, all that humiliating obedience to constituted authority. I would live life on my own terms."

—From *Seven Horizons*, by Charles J. Finger

"No, wait!! You can't take me away! I haven't renewed my membership in the Washington County Historical Society!"



by Helen Leflar

Gayeta Lodge in the 1930s